

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 04574 101032Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 HA-05 /057 W
-----020737 101035Z /21

O R 092140Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7840
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY LAPAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

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EO 11652 NA
TAGS PINS PINT BR
SUBJECT: GOB ENDS REMAINING PRESS CENSORSHIP

REF BRASILIA 1151

1. PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SPOKESMAN COL LUDWIG CONFIRMED AFTERNOON
JUNE 8 THAT GOB FORMALLY ENDED REMAINING CENSORSHIP ON ALL WRITTEN
MEDIA EARLIER THIS WEEK. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, DIRECT CENSORSHIP
OF MOST WRITTEN MEDIA ENDED IN NOVEMBER 1975. ONLY PUBLICATIONS
REMAINING UNDER CENSORSHIP UNTIL THIS WEEK WERE: A) RIO'S MORNING
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DAAILY "TRIBUNA DA IMPRENSA" (LEFTIST, STRONGLY CRITICAL OF GOB);
B) SAO PAULO WEEKLY TABLOID "MOVIMENTO" (MARXIST RADICAL, TENDING
TO MAOIST); AND C) "O SAO PAULO", OFFICIAL ORGAN OF ARCHDIOCESE
OF SAO PAULO, WHICH ENCOMPASSED VIEWS RANGING FROM FAR RIGHT TO
FAR LEFT OF POLITICAL SPECTRUM, OFTEN CIRTICAL OF GOB.

2. JUNE 9 EDITORIAL REACTION HAS, IN GENERAL, BEEN ONE OF QUALIFIED

PRAISE FOR GOB'S "MOST WELCOME BUT TARDY" DECISION. RIO'S
LARGE JORNAL DO BRASIL, HOWEVER, RESPONDED WITH GENEROUS PRAISE FOR
PRESIDENT GEISEL WHO, PAPER STATED, PERSONALLY INSISTED ON ENDING
CENSORSHIP DESPITE STRONG PRESSURES FROM UNIDENTIFIED "POLITICAL
ALLIES AND COLLABORATORS".

3. COMMENT: DIRECT BUT ERRATIC "ON PREMISES" CENSORSHIP OF PRESS
BEGAN DAY AFTER ISSUANCE OF INSTITUTIONAL ACT NO.5 ON DECEMBER
13, 1968. CENSORSHIP WAS SYSTEMATIZED ON SEPTEMBER 14, 1972,
(DURING MEDICI ADMINISTRATION) AND WAS APPLIED THROUGHOUT MEDIA
UNTIL NOVEMBER 1, 1975, WHEN (UNDER GEISEL) IT WAS LIFTED ON ALL
BUT ABOVE THREE PUBLICATIONS. ECONOMIC PRESSURES AND OTHER INDIRECT
FORMS OF CENSORSHIP REMAIN AVAILABLE TO GOB, OF COURSE, BUT WE ARE
NOT AWARE OF ANY COMPLAINTS ON THIS SCORE OVER PAST TWO AND A HALF
YEARS. IN CONFIRMING GOB'S DECISION, WHICH WAS APPARENTLY MADE KNOWN
TO AFFECTED PUBLICATIONS IN VERY INFORMAL MANNER, COL. LUDWIG
SAID MEASURE WAS TAKEN IN CONTEXT OF THE "GRADUALISM AND PROGRESSIVIS
M
OF THE PROCESS OF POLITICAL OPENING BEING CONDUCTED BY
PRESIDENT GEISEL".

4. AS REPORTED EARLIER (REFTEL, GOB HAS SINCE JANUARY RELAXED ITS
DIRECT CENSORSHIP OF RADIO AND TV. HOWEVER, ALTHOUGH POLITICAL
NEWS REPORTING HAS INCREASED ON ELECTRONIC MEDIA, LATTER IS STILL
VERY MUCH UNDER CONTROL. MOST RECENT EXAMPLE WAS APPARENTLY
EXPLICIT PROHIBITION AGAINST COVERING LAST MONTH'S
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METALWORKERS' STRIKES IN SAO PAULO. BEYOND THAT, STATION OWNERS
CAREFULLY APPLY SELF-CENSORSHIP TO THE CONTENT OF THEIR PROGRAMS.
SAYRE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: CENSORSHIP, GOVERNMENT REFORM, THE PRESS
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780678/aaaacpcr.tel
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Subject: GOB ENDS REMAINING PRESS CENSORSHIP
TAGS: PINS, PINT, SOPN, BR
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